

<b>Some Characteristics of Plant Communities</b>	
<b>Species composition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Typical species</li> <li>◆ Relative importance (cover, density)</li> <li>◆ Accidental and ubiquitous species</li> </ul>	<b>Change over time</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Adaptation to disturbance</li> <li>◆ Succession</li> <li>◆ Stability</li> <li>◆ Response to climatic change</li> </ul>
<b>Species patterns</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Spatial</li> <li>◆ Niche breadth and overlap</li> </ul>	<b>Creation of, and control over a microenvironment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Shading</li> </ul>
<b>Species diversity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Richness</li> <li>◆ Evenness</li> <li>◆ Diversity within stands and between stands</li> </ul>	<b>Nutrient Cycling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Nutrient demand</li> <li>◆ Storage capacity</li> <li>◆ Rate of nutrient return to the soil</li> <li>◆ Nutrient retention efficiency of the nutrient cycles</li> </ul>
<b>Structure (Physiognomy)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Life forms (herbaceous, shrub, tree)</li> <li>◆ Cover</li> <li>◆ Phenology (blooming, setting seed, dormant)</li> </ul>	<b>Productivity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Biomass</li> <li>◆ Annual net productivity</li> </ul>